Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Claims 2-14 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Original) A method of diagnosing a disease relate to endometriosis, which comprises measuring the level of a histamine-releasing factor (HRF protein) in a biological sample from a subject, comparing the HRF protein level with that of a normal biological sample and determining that the subject showing a significantly higher HRF protein level compared with that of the normal biological sample in a patient with a disease related to endometriosis or a person with high risk thereof.

2-14. Canceled

15.   (New) The method of diagnosing a disease related to endometriosis of claim 1, which comprises the steps of:

(a) contacting a biological sample from a subject with a support on which a first antibody recognizing an HRF protein has been immobilized;

(b) washing the support with which the biological sample has been contacted in the step (a);

(c) contacting a second antibody recognizing a different epitope of HRF protein from the first antibody, which has been labeled, with the support washed in the step (b);

(d) measuring a bound label or a free label on the support;

(e) comparing the label amount measured in the step (d), as an indicator of the HRF protein level, with the result of a normal biological sample; and

(f) employing a significantly higher HRF protein level compared with that of the normal biological sample as an indicator showing a disease related to endometriosis or the degree of its risk.

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16.   (New) The method of diagnosing a disease related to endometriosis of claim 1, which comprises the steps of:

(a) subjecting a biological sample from a subject to a treatment of tissue fixation;

(b) sectioning the fixed tissue specimen prepared in the step (a);

(c) subjecting the sectioned tissue obtained in the step (b) to immunohistological staining with the antibody recognizing an HRF protein;

(d) comparing the degree of the immunohistological staining by the step (c), as an indicator of the HRF protein level, with the result of a normal biological sample; and

(e) employing a significantly higher HRF protein level compared with that of the normal biological sample as an indicator showing a disease related to endometriosis or the degree of its risk.

17.   (New) The method of diagnosing a disease related to endometriosis of claim 15, wherein the antibody is an antibody recognizing an HRF protein, obtained by using, as an immunizing antigen, a peptide containing a sequence of 5 to 20 amino acid residues selected from the amino acid sequence at positions 90 to 130 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

18.   (New) The method of diagnosing a disease related to endometriosis of claim 15, wherein the antibody is an antibody recognizing an HRF protein, obtained by using, as an immunizing antigen, a peptide containing a sequence of 5 to 20 amino acid residues selected from the amino acid sequence at positions 1 to 95 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

19.   (New) The method of diagnosing a disease related to endometriosis of claim 15, wherein the antibody is an antibody recognizing an HRF protein, obtained by using, as an immunizing antigen, a peptide containing a sequence of 5 to 20 amino acid residues selected from the amino acid sequence at positions 115 to 172 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

20.   (New) The method of diagnosing a disease related to endometriosis of claim 16, wherein the antibody is an antibody recognizing an HRF protein, obtained by using, as an immunizing antigen, a peptide containing a sequence of 5 to 20 amino acid residues selected from the amino acid sequence at positions 90 to 130 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

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21.   (New) The method of diagnosing a disease related to endometriosis of claim 16, wherein the antibody is an antibody recognizing an HRF protein, obtained by using, as an immunizing antigen, a peptide containing a sequence of 5 to 20 amino acid residues selected from the amino acid sequence at positions 1 to 95 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

22.   (New) The method of diagnosing a disease related to endometriosis of claim 16, wherein the antibody is an antibody recognizing an HRF protein, obtained by using, as an immunizing antigen, a peptide containing a sequence of 5 to 20 amino acid residues selected from the amino acid sequence at positions 115 to 172 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

23.   (New) A kit for diagnosing a disease related to endometriosis comprising an antibody recognizing an HRF protein, which has been labeled.

24.   (New) A kit for diagnosing a disease related to endometriosis of claim 23, which comprises:

        (a) the antibody recognizing an HRF protein, which has been labeled; and

        (b) an antibody recognizing a different epitope of HRF protein than the antibody of (a).

25.   (New) A kit for diagnosing a disease related to endometriosis of claim 23, which comprises:

        (a) the antibody recognizing an HRF protein, which has been labeled; and

        (b) a support on which an antibody recognizing a different epitope of HRF protein than the antibody of (a) has been immobilized.

26.   (New) A kit for diagnosing a disease related to endometriosis of claim 23, wherein the antibody is an antibody recognizing an HRF protein, obtained by using, as an immunizing antigen, a peptide including at least one selected from the group consisting of

        a peptide containing a sequence of 5 to 20 amino acid residues selected from the amino acid sequence at positions 90 to 130 of SEQ ID NO: 2,

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a peptide containing a sequence of 5 to 20 amino acid residues selected from the amino acid sequence at positions 1 to 95 of SEQ ID NO: 2, and

a peptide containing a sequence of 5 to 20 amino acid residues selected from the amino acid sequence at positions 115 to 172 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

27.   (New) A drug for diagnosing a disease related to endometriosis used in the method of diagnosing a disease related to endometriosis of claim 1, which comprises an antibody recognizing an HRF protein, obtained by using, as an immunizing antigen, the peptide including at least one selected from the group consisting of:

a peptide containing a sequence of 5 to 20 amino acid residues selected from the amino acid sequence at positions 90 to 130 of SEQ ID NO: 2,

a peptide containing a sequence of 5 to 20 amino acid residues selected from the amino acid sequence at positions 1 to 95 of SEQ ID NO: 2, and

a peptide containing a sequence of 5 to 20 amino acid residues selected from the amino acid sequence at positions 115 to 172 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

28.   (New) A therapeutic method for a disease related to endometriosis, which comprises administering to a subject an antibody recognizing an HRF protein and neutralizing an activity of the HRF protein in the subject.

29. ·   (New) A therapeutic drug for a disease related to endometriosis, which comprises an antibody that recognizes an HRF Protein and neutralizes the activity of the HRF protein.

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